A REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Thursday, June 12. 1712.

THERE is an Old Street Proverb, or saying, which I have heard much used among the *Alsatia-Men*, *viz.* The Knights-Shelterers of the *Mint*, *White-Fryars*, *&c.* and it is in *English* thus; *the World's a Cheat, the Knaves carry it on, and he's a Fool that has no Hand in it.*

I believe never any Age, especially in Trade, gave so ready a consent to the first part of this Proverb; nor did the People in general ever say Amen so Universally to the last; Stock-Jobbers have rid on your Back some Ages, till the Fashionableness of the Employment and especially the Wealth of the K—s has Legitimated the Calling; and whether the Stock-Jobbers are turn'd Honest Men, or a great many Honest Men are turn'd Stock-Jobbers, Authors having differ'd about it, I leave the Dispute to be determin'd by the Sages; mean time, as I hear the Gentlemen design to be Incorporated suddenly, and to be distinguish'd by the Name and Stile of the Governour and Directors of the Worshipful Company of *Merchant-Pick-Pockets*, alias STOCK-JOBBERS, and that

that many of our Great Folk may think fit to take up their Freedom of the Company; I ſhall, for that Reaſon, forbear to talk any more of them for the preſent, leaſt in proceſs of Time, the Governour of the Company ſhould be Lord Mayor, and I ſhould be brought in for Reviling the Ruler of the People.

I had next reſolv'd to cry down Lotteries, for another kind of Cheat, by which abundance of poor People have been drawn in, here by a Gold Watch, there a Diamond Necklace; here a fine Clock, there a piece of Lace, to pick the Pockets of Fathers, Husbands, Maſters and Friends, to run Mad after a piece of empty Air, that they may have their Pockets at laſt pick'd by Mr. *Undertaker*; but Lotteries being ſuppreſs'd by Law, except as by Law excepted, I forbear them alſo, only adviſing all thoſe who regard the Publick Credit, to avoid Subſcribing for Sale, as what, if carried on to a Monopoly, is neither fair to the Publick nor to the People.

But I come now to ſet up for a New Project of my own, and that, Mountebank like, I may firſt harrangue you all into a good Conceit of my Undertaking, I crave leave to lay down a few Things which few Undertakers will be able to match, and by which, all that think fit to Adventure, will if they loſe, have no pretence to Quarrel the Undertaker.

When I begin my Adventure, of which timely Notice ſhall be given in the *Gazette*, that all my Adventurers may know in time, and not be unfairly ſhut out, I purpoſe to take the following Meaſures, of which I here give a faithful Scheme, to let you know that I am not afraid any one ſhould imitate my Invention, or run away with my Profits, for that after I have given you my draft, all Mankind are Welcome to ſet up the like, and to get all the Subſcribers they can.

I am not determin'd yet, whether to have it call'd the *Golden Adventure*, the *Noble Adventure*, the *Old Original Sale of the Queen's Picture*, the *Golden Sale of Numbers*, or the like; perhaps *I* may chooſe out of about one Hundred and Fifty now Flouriſhing Titles, one to my purpoſe, ſo as may moſt oblige you to Subſcribe and bring in your Money.

You are to pay in what Summs of Money you pleaſe; from 2 *s.* 6 *d. per* Week, to 10 Guineas, for which, at the End of ſix Weeks, you ſhall without fail, *except as hereafter excepted*, receive 50 *per Cent.* Advance for your Money, without any defalcation, and this to be paid in Specie.

Now that I may do what no Office has yet done, (and therefore I intend, I think, to call mine the NONE-SUCH) I ſhall give a true and genuine Account, for the farther Satisfaction of my Adventurers, how this is perform'd, that the Thing being made eaſie, all the Doubts conceiv'd by the Miſcarriage of ſo many Offices, as have of late fail'd of Performance, may be clear'd up: The manner is thus; ſuppoſe I receive 500 *l.* the firſt Week of my Subſcribers, and ſo Weekly the Summ of 500 *l.* for ſix Weeks—This, by the Courſe of my Office, obliges me to pay to thoſe Fortunate Adventurers 750 *l.* at the End of ſix Weeks, this I can very well do, for having taken in ſix times 500 *l.* which is three Thouſand Pounds, in that Time I can therewith very readily pay the firſt ſix Weeks, ſo that I am only a Fortnight behind, that is, one Thouſand five Hundred Pounds out of Stock, which is abundantly made up in the meanstime, by the continual Additional Receipts,

and Influx of more Money —— This is made plain thus.

Receiv'd,

The first Week ——	500 l.
the second Week —	500
the third Week ——	500
the fourth Week —	500
the fifth Week ——	500
the sixth Week ——	500
Total	3000

Due the seventh Week to the first Week's Adventurers. ——	750 l.
The eighth Week ——	750
The ninth Week ——	750
The tenth Week ——	750
The eleventh Week ——	750
The twelfth Week ——	750
Total	4500

Here you see I have paid away 4500 *l.* for 3000 *l.* receiv'd; by doing which, the Renown of this good Success, and the Fame of my prudent Honesty of Management has made such a Noise in the Town, that it has drawn in so many more Adventurers, that my Weekly Receivings Encrease as follows.

The seventh Week being the first Week of Payment, the Noise of my Fortunate Receivers, draws in double, and I Receive for further Adventures the Sum of —	1000 l.
The eighth Week ——	2000 l.
The ninth Week ——	2000
The tenth Week ——	2000
The eleventh Week (by this time you are allarm'd with the Rumour of immense gain) and I Receive ——	3000
The twelfth Week (now you are grown quite besides yourselves) for Fortunes, Husbands &c	4000
Total	14000

So that by this nice Invention, and taking hold of the good Humour of the Town, I have obtain'd by the end of the first three Months a pretty good Footing; so that the Account stands thus.

I have receiv'd the first six Weeks ——	3000 l.
The second six Weeks —	14000
Total	17000

I have nothing to pay till the 7th Week, and at the End of the 12th Week I have paid —	4500
So that I am in Cash clear to Ballance —	12500
Total	17000

I might carry on the Project a great Way farther, and by the like Calculation, in about 4 Weeks more. I should have

have about 22000 *l.* in my Pocket; but being Modeſt in my Expectations, and withal judging, that by this time, the Knavery of ſome may tempt them to halt and ſtop Payment, which may a little check my Adventurers, I ſhall therefore content myſelf with the above-ſaid Summ of 12500 *L. Sterling*, and then ſhutting up my Exchequer, I ſhall think fit to let my Friends know, that *the Adventure ceaſeth.*

Now you are to know, that in theſe Caſes, the Time being ſo ſhort, no real Gain being deſign'd to be made of the Money, and no poſſible Gain ever reaching the Summ expected, this cannot be called a Cheat, for who, in his Wits, can be ſuppos'd to expect, that I, who pay 150 *l.* for 2100 *l.* in ſix Weeks Time, can do it *any other Way*, than by paying the *firſt Fools* out of the Pockets of the *Second*; in which Caſe there falls no Loſs but upon the *laſt Fools*, and they can expect no other, having a fair hazard to be of the firſt, as well as of the laſt.

This, therefore, being ſo fair an Adventure, and my Scheme ſo exactly laid down, I hope, O Gentlemen, you will as ſoon throw away your Money with your humble Servant, as with any of them, eſpecially, ſince I tell you honeſtly, the Method how it is perform'd, and may defie the beſt of them to tell you another; and I promiſe you two Things; *Firſt*, not to break till the End of 12 Weeks, which all Things conſider'd, is a great while, and if the Payments are made Monthly, I may not break till the End of 12 Months: *Secondly*, That I will not cheat you of above 12500 *l.* which being ſuch a Trifle, I hope can offend no-body. *And ſo much for Sales of Figures, Numbers, Pictures*, &c.

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